

# Legislative Fiscal Bureau

## Fiscal Note

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SF 2106 - Covenant Marriage (LSB 6608 SV.1)

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Fiscal Note Version – Amended Bill

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### **Description**

Senate File 2106 establishes options for premarital education. If applicants attended premarital education, the cost for a marriage license is \$20. If applicants did not attend premarital education, the cost for a marriage license is \$50. If applicants complete premarital education, the marriage license is valid upon the expiration of three days. If applicants do not complete premarital education, the marriage license is valid upon the expiration of thirty days. If applicants do not go through premarital education but do not want to wait thirty days for their marriage license, those individuals would pay an additional \$5 to the County Recorder and have a judge authorize their marriage license.

### **Assumptions**

1. There are approximately 23,000 applications for marriage annually.
2. Fifty percent (11,500) of applicants for a marriage license will participate in premarital counseling.
3. For applicants who attend premarital counseling, the cost for a marriage license is \$20. Of this amount, \$4 would be retained by the County Recorder's office and \$16 would go to the General Fund.
4. For applicants who do not attend premarital counseling, the cost for a marriage license is \$50. Of this amount, \$19 would be retained by the County Recorder's office and \$31 would go to the General Fund.
5. Under current law, the cost for a marriage license is \$35. Of this amount, \$4 is retained by the County Recorder's office and \$31 would go to the General Fund.
6. For parties who attend premarital counseling, they can receive their marriage license after three days.
7. For parties who do not attend premarital counseling, they can receive their marriage license after thirty days.
8. For parties who do not attend premarital counseling but want to receive their license earlier than thirty days, the parties can pay \$5 to the County Recorder and a judge will validate their marriage license.
9. Under current law, parties could pay \$5 to the County Recorder to have a judge validate their marriage license prior to three days. Under this legislation, all parties would have to wait at least three days to get married, regardless if premarital counseling was attended or not.

### **Fiscal Impact**

For applicants who receive premarital counseling, the General Fund impact would be a decrease in revenue of approximately \$173,000 annually. There would be no impact on the Counties.

For applicants who do not receive premarital counseling, there would be no General Fund impact and the Counties would receive an increase in revenue of approximately \$173,000.

For applicants who do not take premarital classes but want to be married sooner than the 30-day waiting period, the cost is an additional \$5. The fiscal impact cannot be determined due to

insufficient information relating to what would qualify as an emergency or extraordinary circumstance.

**Sources**

Office of the Attorney General  
State Court Administrator's Office  
Department of Public Health  
Polk County Recorder Office  
Story County Recorder Office  
Jasper County Recorder Office

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

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March 13, 2002

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

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